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Question of the Falklands Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release issued today by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the latest anniversary of the illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 24.

(*Signed*) Diego **Limeres**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2008 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2008

On 3 January 1833, British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, forcibly expelling their inhabitants and the Argentine authorities legitimately established there. The Argentine Republic immediately protested, and has never consented to that act of force.

Today, 175 years after that illegal occupation, which is still continuing, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm once again the inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of Argentine national territory.

They also recall the permanent and unrenounceable objective enshrined in the national Constitution, to recover the full exercise of sovereignty over the above-mentioned territories and maritime areas in accordance with the principles of international law while respecting the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. This permanent objective is a State policy and reflects the collective desire of the people of the Argentine nation.

The Argentine Government reiterates the need to comply with the numerous resolutions of the United Nations and declarations of the Organization of American States, among many other forums, calling on the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume bilateral negotiations in order to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute as soon as possible.

On the understanding that cooperation on practical aspects would help create a climate favourable to the resumption of negotiations aimed at settling the dispute, Argentina has reached bilateral understandings of a practical nature with the United Kingdom, under the safeguarding of sovereignty formula. However, the United Kingdom continues to refuse to address the question of sovereignty and has increasingly taken unilateral actions, which do not contribute to bilateral cooperation and are also contrary to the call by the United Nations to refrain from adopting unilateral measures.

As a result of those unilateral acts, the Argentine Government denounced the Joint Statement on hydrocarbons in March 2007 and the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission has not met again since December 2005. Argentina and the United Kingdom should jointly analyse all the bilateral understandings in the light of their goals, which is to contribute to a climate conducive to the resumption of negotiations on sovereignty. As long as the United Kingdom remains reluctant to do that, Argentina will feel compelled to carry out that analysis without the participation of its counterpart.

The Argentine Republic considers the British refusal to address the core issue in order to settle this anachronistic sovereignty dispute unjustified, since the

international community, including the United Kingdom itself, has repeatedly and expressly recognized the existence and nature of the dispute and the fact that it is still unresolved. In order to comply with the numerous pronouncements of the international community urging both parties to put an end to the sovereignty dispute, the Argentine Republic reiterates, once again, its permanent willingness to resume bilateral negotiations with a view to settling the sovereignty dispute.